

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 9th January 2020 in The Village Hall, Castor at 7.30pm

223. **PRESENT:** Cllr. Richard Anker, Cllr. William Baxter, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Officers present: John Haste, clerk; also, in attendance Members of the public. The chairman welcomed Rebecca Stewart, possible co-option to the parish council, as an observer to our meeting.
224. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr. Greene and Cllr. Surgeon away and Cllr. Shaw prior commitment
225. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None declared.
226. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and they were duly signed by the chairman.
227. **OPEN FORUM** –
- a) A resident asked if the seat at the allotment would be re-instated and was informed that it was beyond economic repair but that the picnic bench will be put back in a suitable location.
 - b) Councillor Rowlands asked about the bus questionnaire and was informed that the results were still being analysed and could be discussed at the joint meeting with Ailsworth PC on 15th January
228. **PLANNING and associated matters**
- a) **Status report** - We noted the current status of Planning applications received in the current year as circulated with the agenda papers.
 - b) **19/01842/CTR.** Village Manor, 48 Peterborough Road - Removal of 2 overhanging limbs – We have no objections to the proposed work.
 - c) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – We agreed to consider the action plan in conjunction with Ailsworth parish council at our joint meeting on 15th January
 - d) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP)** – We noted that this was also on the agenda for our joint meeting with Ailsworth pc
229. **LAND & ALLOTMENTS:**
- a) Tree planting on Parish council owned land – The clerk had forwarded an email from Martin Chillcott to all parish councillors and we noted the he would address the joint meeting with Ailsworth. We therefore agreed to defer further consideration to our next scheduled meeting

230. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- i) **Receipts and payments since last reported** – a statement had been circulated with the agenda and we noted the report showing £35,250.56 receipts to date and expenditure to date of £98675.13.
- ii) **Budgetary control report** – we considered the paper circulated with the agenda and noted that the estimated outturn was expected to be c£109k expenditure against £108k income, taking in to account the expenditure on the new play equipment and assuming receipt of the grant and reclaimable VAT
- iii) **Budget 2020/21 to 2023/24.** We considered in detail the draft budget before and noted that there were no plans by the city council to withdraw grants to parish councils for the coming year. The clerk took us through the effects of different levels of precept and we concluded that it would be most appropriate to opt for no variation to the current level of band D council tax on residents of Castor for parish council purposes. We noted that the city council estimated £364.01 to be raised by a £1 charge at band D from Castor residents.

We therefore **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £59,190 payments, estimated receipts of £39,492.88 (including precept of £32,032.88), and using £19,697.12 from our reserves to balance the budget.

Proposed Cllr. Neil Boyce seconded Cllr. Mrs Fiona Rowlands.

In conclusion of this item we thanked the clerk for his work in producing the draft budget and the clarity of explanation of the options available to us

231. **HIGHWAYS** – Observations of Councillors – in particular we noted that the 20mph speed restrictions were yet to be implemented, the lack of consultation on the type and location of signage to be used; and the failure to remove the yellow lines where they were no longer appropriate. We also were informed that Martin Benn was on the case for replacing the cobbled kerbs with heritage style kerbs. Given the range of issues we asked the clerk to invite Andy Tatt to our next meeting or to meet 2 or 3 councillors on site.

232. COMMUNITY MATTERS –

- a) **Play equipment** – We agreed to consider an appropriate official opening of the play area and community allotment in the early spring and to agree a budget for the purpose at our next meeting
- b) **Community Allotment** – We noted that Plough Environmental were due to top up the raised beds at their next scheduled visit.

233. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- We noted the request of the pre-school playgroup for a raised bed at the community allotment. In confirming this we asked the clerk to remind the group that there was a requirement to clear the former play hut site.
- Way Wardens – Good Neighbour scheme – We were informed that the charity commission had agreed charitable status and that Glington parish council had agreed to join the scheme and nominate a trustee.

234. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –**

- We agreed to revisit the planning process / policy document when Cllr Shaw was available to ensure there is no conflict with the neighbourhood plan.
- Possibly consider a review of the complaints procedure/ policy
- 2020 Swim Run event 7th June

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm



Clerk & RFO 24th January, 2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6TH FEBRUARY 2020 in The Village Hall at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		6th February 2020

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